



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

60
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,986	07/30/2001	Megumi Umezawa	33837	9742
116	7590	02/08/2005	EXAMINER	
PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108				DAVIS, ZACHARY A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2137

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/917,986	UMEZAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zachary A Davis	2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20010730</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the labels and tables appear to contain typographical errors. Specifically, in Figure 1, it appears that "Password Conversion Unit" 103 should be labeled "Password Conversion Unit" and that "Password Authentication Unit" 105 should be labeled "Password Authentication Unit". Further, in Figures 3-7, it appears that the input device "Rotaty Encoder" is intended to read "Rotary Encoder". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the

examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification appears to contain minor errors such as uncommon idiomatic expressions. For example, page 8, line 4 reads "a switch provided separately or else"; page 11, lines 3-4 read "the comparison revealed data unmatch a predetermined count"; and page 13, lines 3 and 23 each read "the then position". These are generally unclear expressions.

Appropriate correction is required. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any other errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim recites the limitation "the alphanumeric characters is assigned" in line 5. It is assumed that this is intended to read "each alphanumeric character is assigned" or "the alphanumeric characters are assigned" or similar. Further, it appears that "matches" in line 15 of the claim is intended to read "match". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 3, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation “the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial unit by rotating the dial unit in reversed direction”. As claimed, it appears that it is the confirmation unit that rotates the dial; however, the specification implies that it is a user that rotates the dial and the confirmation unit confirms the characters in response to such rotation. This contradiction makes the claim unclear, and therefore renders the claim indefinite.

Claim 4 recites the limitation “the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial when the rotation direction of the dial unit is reversed and alternately changes the rotation direction of the dial unit and sequentially inputs each digit of the identification information”. This is generally unclear. It appears that the confirmation unit is the subject of the phrases beginning “alternately changes” and “sequentially inputs”; however, the specification implies that a user would change the rotation direction of the dial unit and input the digits. This contradiction renders the claim indefinite.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "comprising a display unit for displaying the level of the user and performs display corresponding to the user level according to the input password". This is generally unclear, specifically the phrase beginning "performs display", as it is unclear what the subject of that phrase is. This renders the claim indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller, US Patent 5061923.

In reference to Claim 1, Miller discloses an input apparatus including a dial unit for inputting alphanumeric character via rotating operation and generating an electric signal (Figure 3, Dial 12), a unit for confirming characters input by the dial unit, a unit for converting the electric signal into the characters (Figure 3, Microprocessor 16 and Stepper Motor/Generator 14; column 4, lines 33-37), and a unit for authenticating the characters by checking if they match the appropriate characters (column 4, line 59- column 5, line 4).

In reference to Claim 2, Miller further discloses specifying a procedure for converting the signal to characters and performing the conversion in accordance with the procedure (column 4, lines 35-37 and 59-62; column 5, lines 31-53).

In reference to Claims 3 and 4, Miller further discloses confirming characters when the dial is rotated in the reverse direction, specifically that the direction of rotation is reversed after each input character (see column 1, lines 51-55, where the dial is similar in operation to traditional prior art combination locks, which operate in such a manner; see also column 5, lines 18-30, specifically describing directional arrows A₁ and A₂).

In reference to Claim 6, Miller further discloses a display unit (Figure 3, Display Unit 35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller.

Miller discloses everything as applied above to Claim 1. Although Miller does not explicitly disclose an input cancellation unit, official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to include some sort of cancel, delete, or backspace key or functionality.

Art Unit: 2137

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an input cancellation unit, in order to allow the operator to correct an error made in inputting the characters.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Song et al, US Patent 5408275, discloses a control that includes a rotary encoder in place of a keypad.
- b. Gaultier et al, US Patent 5872528, discloses a coder that includes a knob and a code wheel, and a means for detecting the angular rotation and direction of rotation of the knob and wheel.
- c. Wicks et al, US Patent 5914669, discloses a pager with a rotating dial that is used for input.
- d. Sudo et al, US Patent 5987336, discloses an apparatus that includes a jog dial with a switch that can be used for input.
- e. Sudo , US Patent 6047198, discloses equipment that includes a jog dial with a switch that can be used for input, and further discloses that the equipment can be used to input a password.
- f. Anderson, US Patent 6509847, discloses a password input device that does not allow the password to be discerned by an observer.

Art Unit: 2137

g. Narayanaswami, US Patent 6556222, discloses a device that includes a bezel that can be rotated like the knob of a combination lock in order to unlock access to the device's memory.

h. Aizawa, US Patent 6683529, discloses a device that includes a rotary knob with a rotary encoder that is used to input characters.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary A Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3870. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:30-6:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2137

ZAD
zad

Andrew Caldwell

**ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**